

especially those who serve as the foundation of our nation—the American laborer. Her kindness, energy, compassion and unwavering focus on making our world a better place—one union member at a time, will be remembered always. I extend my deepest condolences to her friends and family members, and especially to her sons, Bob and Lee; her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchild.

Ottile Markholt lived her life with joy, energy and in complete harmony with her principals and values. Her eternal faith in humanity and in the notion that together, we can make a positive difference, will continue to serve as an unending force of hope and possibility for every member of America's labor force, and her memory and legacy will forever live on within the hearts of all who knew and loved her well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably delayed and missed rollcall vote No. 140. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity today to honor all those who own and work for small businesses as part of National Small Business Week. These men and women should be recognized for their spirit of entrepreneurship, determination, persistence, and contribution to our economic prosperity.

Small businesses represent 95 percent of all employers, create half of our economic growth, and create three out of four new jobs throughout the nation. As leaders in innovation and new technology, they produce up to fourteen more patents per employee than large corporations. Nearly half of these small businesses are owned by women entrepreneurs.

Owners of small businesses are risk takers who aren't afraid to take an idea they have and make it a reality. Because of their positive impact on our country, we should not make the risks they take any more difficult. The Bush Administration and Congress should cultivate small businesses by advancing policies that enable small businesses to start and flourish, not placing impediments that stunt their growth.

Under President Bush's budget, small business assistance programs are some of the hardest hit with cuts. Reductions to these assistance programs are much greater than the program cuts elsewhere in the budget he submitted to Congress. Half of all government small business assistance programs are for elimination or for severe cuts, with the average cut at nearly 80 percent. Among the pro-

grams cut or eliminated are the Community Development Financial Institutions which helps small businesses in underprivileged communities receive capital, the Microloan program which provides loans to people who would not normally be eligible to receive one; the Minority Business Development Agency which focuses only on the establishment and growth of minority owned businesses; and the Women's Business Centers which help aspiring female entrepreneurs.

These cuts are unacceptable, and I am hopeful that through the appropriations process we can restore the funding to these programs. The government should not be in the business of making it more difficult to receive start-up capital. We should also be encouraging minorities and women to begin businesses, especially in communities in need of thriving companies, not cutting the programs that make it easier to succeed.

Small business owners are the backbone of our economy. They deserve the respect and assistance of the federal government. Instead, they have seen the government cut the programs that help them become successes. I am looking forward to the day when the government is there to help every person who has ever dreamt of owning their own business and seeing those stores, restaurants and companies thrive.

CITIZENS FOR CITIZENS HEAD START PROGRAM WINS AWARD

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, nothing that we do is more important than trying to provide a fair start in life for young people born into difficult economic circumstances. The Head Start and Early Head Start programs are therefore among the most valued that we have. I was pleased but not surprised to be informed that the version of these programs run by the Fall River Community Action Group, Citizens For Citizens, received the Excellence Award from the Department of Health and Human Services. Citizens For Citizens is an extraordinarily creative organization, run by dedicated people with a deep commitment to helping others. This recognition of the Head Start program is just an example of the generally excellent work that Citizens For Citizens does, and on the occasion of this, I want to congratulate Director Neil Lynch and all of those who work with him in this important endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, the Fall River Herald News last month ran an article about this program and the good work that it does. It is important for people to see examples of successful federal programs, and I therefore ask that this article from the Fall River Herald News be printed here.

[From the Herald News, Mar. 24, 2005]

CFC HEAD START PROGRAM RECEIVES PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

FALL RIVER.—Citizens for Citizens' Head Start and Early Head Start program has once again received the U.S. Department of Health's Program of Excellence Award following an extensive study of all aspects of the operation by a team of 12 federal reviewers.

Neil Lynch, CFC Head Start director, said that only two other programs in Massachusetts received the Program of Excellence Award. The award was presented at a regional conference in Nashua, N.H.

The reviews are conducted every three years and the highest rating is a repeat of the study results in 2001. The federal reviewers determined that CFC Head Start meets and surpasses every federal performance standard.

"The team from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services closely scrutinized us in how effectively we were performing in the areas of education, quality health and nutrition, disabilities, social services, transportation and parent involvement," said Lynch.

He noted that the federal reviewers also met with community partners, including the public schools, social service agencies, parents, policy council members and the CFC board.

"I am very proud of our staff for receiving the Program of Excellence Award for the second consecutive time," said Lynch.

"The staff and the parents of Head Start children devote a great deal of effort into the programs we provide in order to ensure the highest quality of early childhood education possible," he added.

CFC operates 21 Head Start classes in Greater Fall River and an Early Head Start and home-based program on Second Street.

The federal reviewers determined CFC Head Start and Early Head Start accomplished the following:

—All curricula in place are based upon sound child development principles and presented in creative learning methods.

—Parents are actively involved in curriculum planning through a policy council, which is informed of current decisions affecting service delivery, program policies and procedures.

—Successful family partnership built.

—Rapport between staff and parents created trust and helped identify individual needs.

—Collaboration is excellent between area health and dental providers, schools, colleges and pediatric specialists.

—General layout of classrooms are safe, comfortable and fully accessible.

Mark A. Sullivan Jr., executive director of CFC, said Head Start is a valuable learning resource for children and that since its inception it has successfully prepared millions of children to enter school on a level playing field.

"I am very proud of the administrators of CFC's Head Start, the staff and especially the parents who are closely involved with the program to ensure their children get a quality learning experience," said Sullivan.

IN HONOR OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY OF CLEVELAND AND THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SAIGON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and recognition of the 30th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon. This historical date commemorates the end of the Vietnam War, and represents the beginning of a new life for tens of thousands of Vietnamese people, as they began their hopeful journey to America.